

Historic Name: Webster, William W., House		County: Wright
Common Name: Geraldine Moorhouse Residence		Community: Clearwater
Owner's Name and Address: Geraldine Moorhouse Clearwater, Minnesota 55320		Address/Legal Desc.: Spring and Linn Streets (SW corner)
Classification:		Acreage:
Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Structure _____	Object _____
Condition:		less than one acre
Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good _____	Fair _____
Deteriorated _____		Verbal Boundary Desc. Clearwater Plat Lots 1,2 Block 16
Open to the Public:		UTM Reference: 15 / 417780 / 5030160 Clearwater Quad.
Yes _____	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Visible from the road:		Level of Significance: Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No _____	
Occupied:		State _____
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No _____	Nation _____
Present Use:		Status:
Residence		Survey _____
History:		Date _____
Date Constructed: 1863	Original Owner: William Webster	Local _____
Architect/Builder: unknown	Original Use: Residence	State <u>9/73, 2/78</u>
Description: The William Webster House is situated on the southwest corner of Spring Street and Linn Street (Lots 1,2, Block 16 of the Original Plat of Clearwater). The house, which was designed in the Greek Revival style of architecture, is a two-story rectangular building of wood frame construction. Approximately twenty-three feet wide and thirty feet long, it is three bays wide. The principal entrance is offset at the east gable-end. The exterior wall finish is clapboard siding. The gable roof is covered with modern asphalt shingles and trimmed with a boxed cornice and frieze board. Pilaster strips offset the corners of the main building and at the principal entrance. The trabeated front entrance includes a multiple pane, rectangular transom and sidelights. The decorative entablature is repeated through-out the window (continued)		Nat'l. Reg. _____
Significance: The William W. Webster House, which was built about 1863, is significant for its style of architecture (Greek Revival), the craftsmanship exhibited in its construction, and for its association with its builder, a settler active in the early development of Clearwater. William Webster arrived in Minnesota in 1857. He worked for one year for the Clearwater Townsite Company and then turned to merchandising, an occupation he had engaged in prior to his leaving his home in Sherbrooke, Quebec. In 1861 he enlisted at Fort Snelling in the Third Minnesota Volunteer Regiment. He was elected first lieutenant by the men in his company. By 1864 he had risen to the rank of major, in part because of his involvement in the battle of Murfreesboro. From 1864 until his death on November 18, 1895, Webster engaged in the mercantile business. (continued)		Nat'l. Land. _____
		HABS/HAER _____
		Theme/s: Primary <u>Architecture</u>
		Secondary <u>Commerce</u>
		Other _____
		Local Contact/Org.: Wright County Historical Society Buffalo, Minnesota
		Prepared by and date: John J. Hackett August 1978

## Description:

openings. The six over six, double hung windows are flanked by louvered shutters. A multiple pane lunette decorates the east gable wall beneath the cornice.

Structurally, two additions have been attached to the main building. The south addition, a one and one half-story gabled, wood frame building was constructed at about the same time as the home itself. Sixteen feet long by fourteen feet wide, its architectural features are identical to those of the main house. This addition also features two side porches and a bay window on the end-gable.

The west addition, a one and one half-story gabled, wood frame building measures twenty-two feet long by sixteen feet wide and was constructed in the early twentieth century. It was constructed of similar materials and in the same scale. Ornamentation is minimal.

Located about thirty feet west of the house is a garage measuring seventeen feet by sixteen feet, constructed at the time the west appendage was added.

All buildings are in good condition.

**Significance:** He was also actively involved in the civic affairs of the community. It was said of Webster, "The prosperity and success of the village in schools, societies, and other institutions is due by a great measure to the energy and liberality of such men as Major Webster." (D.R. Farnham, History of Wright County, p. 170).

Architecturally, the house is the finest Greek Revival dwelling in Wright County. The original house and the south addition exhibit the features typically employed in that design. The west addition, which was added in the 1900s, was built in the same style and with similar materials. The house retains much of its original fabric and character. Its residential setting in a wooded area has not changed in the century since it was constructed. The building is in a good state of preservation.

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